

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

VOL. X.

JANUARY, 1868.

No. 787

Stated Meeting, January 3, 1868.

Present, twenty members.

MR. I. LEA, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Mr. Henry C. Lea, a recently elected member, was introduced and took his seat.

Letters were read from the Imperial Academy of Sciences, at Vienna, dated April 1, and July 11, 1867; from the New York State Library, Albany, September 1, 1866; from the Natural History Society, at Emden, October 9, 1867; severally acknowledging the receipt of publications of this Society; also from Henry Barnard, Commissioner of Education, dated Washington, D. C., December 17, 1867, requesting to be favored with a summary of what the Society, by itself or through its members, has contributed to the progress of science, to be printed in an account of the institutions of science; from J. E. Hillgard, Assistant in charge of Coast Survey Office, December 13, 1867; from Prof. Zantedeschi, Padua, November 28, 1867.

Donations for the Library were announced from Societies: the Royal Physico-Economical, of Königsburg; the German Geological, of Berlin; the Imperial Geological, at Vienna, and the London Geological; from the Imperial Academy of Sciences at Vienna; the Editors of the Nautical Almanac, London; from the American Pharmaceutical Association;

from the Union League Club, of New York; from the Franklin Institute; from Charles H. Hart and Isaac Lea, of Philadelphia; from the Geographical Society of Paris; from Prof. Zantedeschi; from J. E. Hillgard; from Rev. Mr. Barnes; from the Surgeon-General U. S. Army; and the Commissioner of Education, National Department.

Report of the Judges and Clerks who conducted the annual election held this day was read, and the following named officers were declared duly elected, according to the laws, ordinances, and regulations of the Society, for the ensuing year:

President.

George B. Wood.

Vice-Presidents.

John C. Cresson,
Isaac Lea,
George Sharswood.

Secretaries.

Charles B. Trego,
E. Otis Kendall,
John L. Le Conte,
J. P. Lesley.

Members of the Council for Three Years.

Isaac Hayes,
Robert E. Rogers,
Henry C. Carey,
Robert Bridges.

Curators.

Franklin Peale,
Elias Durand,
Joseph Carson.

Treasurer.

Charles B. Trego.

The death of Chester Dewey, a member, was announced as occurring December 13, 1867, aged 82 years.

J. P. Lesley was nominated as Librarian.

Mr. Marsh described a remarkable rainbow which he observed at Germantown, 14th August, 1860.

About 6.45 P. M., at Germantown, the northern branch of a bright rainbow.

At between five and ten degrees from the horizon several branches shot off from the inner edge of the bow (as in the annexed figure), the longest perhaps four or five degrees in length, the arrangement of the colors in each the same as in the principal bow. There were certainly two or three of the branches, some say five.

A few degrees above these branches the bow disappeared (or became very faint), for a space of perhaps three to five degrees, above which it was very bright and in its regular position.



Obs.—May not these branches represent the missing part of the bow brought down from their normal position by some unusual refraction in air between us and the falling rain?

Prof. Cresson made some remarks upon phenomena of a similar character observed by him.

Mr. P. E. Chase made some remarks on the recent meteoric display, and gave his views with regard to the peculiarities of some of the appearances observed by him. He suggested that the cloudy appearance which is often observed after the train of a bolide ceases to be luminous, may be a true cloud, or watery vapor, formed by the union of the meteoric hydrogen with the oxygen of our atmosphere.

Pending nominations Nos. 582, 583, 584 and 585, were read.

Mr. Marsh, Treasurer of the Society's Building Fund, read a statement of the present condition of said Fund.

On motion, the Secretaries were authorized to call to their assistance such members of the Society, not exceeding four in number, as they shall deem best qualified to aid them in preparing an account of the labors of the Society in the promotion of science.

The Transactions of the Society from vol. xi. were ordered to be sent to Yale College; and the Transactions and Proceedings, so far as practicable, were ordered to be presented to the Peabody Institute, at Baltimore.

And the Society was adjourned.

Stated Meeting, January 17, 1868.

Present, fourteen members.

Judge SHARSWOOD, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Zoological Society of London, dated November 15, 1867, acknowledging the receipt of No. 76 of the Proceedings of this Society.

Donations for the Library were announced; from the Netherlands Government; from the Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences at Berlin; from Societies—the London Zoological, the Royal Dublin, the Geographical, of Paris, the Boston Natural History and New Jersey Historical; from the Boston Public Library; from the Library of Congress, at Washington; from the United States Naval Observatory; from Prof. Jeffries Wyman, and from the publishers of the American Journal of Pharmacy, the American Journal of Medical Sciences, and Lippincott's Magazine.

The decease of the following named members was announced: Col. Stephen Long; Rt. Rev. W. H. Delancey, which event occurred April 3, 1865, aged 68 years; and Prof. A. P. Callisen, of Copenhagen.

Mr. J. P. Lesley was elected Librarian for the ensuing year.